

Foundation, National Autism Research, the National Physical Education Council, the Salvation Army, and the Babe Ruth Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join with me today in recognition of the achievements of an outstanding athlete and coach. Mr. Gary Williams has made significant strides in collegiate athletics. His leadership has allowed his team to dominate basketball courts for 17 seasons. His legacy will be remembered for years to come.

FORMATION OF THE RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS OF AMERICA

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the formation of Rural Planning Organizations of America, RPO America, a new national organization dedicated to improving the planning and development of America's rural transportation network. Under the sponsorship of the National Association of Development Organizations, NADO, RPO America is serving as the first and only national forum and professional peer network for the emerging field of rural transportation planning.

This new group is important not only for the coordination, management and planning of our Nation's rural transportation infrastructure and systems, but also for linking our rural communities' economic development initiatives with State and local transportation programs. As I have stated for the record countless times, the development and maintenance of our Nation's public transportation infrastructure—including highways and bridges, transit services, ports, airports and intermodal facilities—is fundamental and at the core of our Nation's long-term economic competitiveness strategy.

Since the passage of the 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, TEA-21, nearly 30 States now voluntarily support, fund and partner with a growing network of multicounty rural planning organizations. These locally governed regional transportation planning agencies are working to enhance State and local coordination, project prioritization, roadway safety and comprehensive transportation planning in our Nation's non-metropolitan regions.

While our Nation's metropolitan areas have enjoyed special Federal status and funding for transportation planning during the past half century, our rural regions are just getting started. Through training, research, peer information exchanges and other professional development services, the members of RPO America are striving to enhance the safety, mobility and economic competitiveness of small town and rural America. I commend NADO for providing the leadership and vision in forming RPO America.

SUCCESSFUL 27TH U.S. SENIOR OPEN HOSTED IN HUTCHINSON, KS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude for an incredibly well hosted event in my district this past week. Through a collaboration of more than 2,500 volunteers, the renowned Prairie Dunes Country Club and the United States Golf Association, the 2006 U.S. Senior Open was contested in Hutchinson, KS.

I was proud to be in the crowd of this well attended tournament. The state of Kansas and this community did a wonderful job of showcasing our welcoming spirit and beautiful landscape.

The names of Watson, Player, Irwin, Crenshaw and Kite are easily recognizable to golf enthusiasts. After his repeat victory, Allen Doyle should also now join this list of distinguished champions as a household name.

But there were more than just famous golfers who made this a successful event. I'm certain that Kansans will join with me in specifically thanking Mr. Allen Fee, Tournament General Chairman, and Mr. Greg Conrad, Championship Director, for their collective contributions in making this an outstanding week of golf. I also want to thank the legion of volunteers who gave of their time and talents. As testament to the event's success, volunteers from 27 states joined nearly 115,000 spectators in establishing the mark for the largest sporting event in Kansas history.

The real star of this championship, however, was the golf course itself. Many golfers and spectators commented that Prairie Dunes was stunning, from tee to green, from fairway to "gunch", and provided the level of difficulty required in a tournament of this high caliber. To the unfamiliar, what players and spectators alike found was a course ranked by many in the top 15 in the United States, and the top 25 in the world. From its origins dating back to 1937, Prairie Dunes continues to emphasize native prairie grasses and its famous "Maxwell Rolls" greens to provide a stern test for the discriminating player.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Hutchinson community for hosting the 27th U.S. Senior Open, and for their many contributions to the State of Kansas and game of golf.

IN RECOGNITION OF 36 YEARS OF SERVICE BY PASTOR GLYN LOWERY TO THE PACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend my congratulations to Pastor Glyn Lowery, Jr. for serving as the pastor to Pace Assembly of God in my district for 36 years.

At the young age of 20, Glyn Lowery became the pastor at Pace Assembly of God. Pastor Lowery, better known as Brother Glyn,

greatly contributed to the growth of Pace Assembly of God by overseeing the construction of a 1000-seat sanctuary just two years after taking over the congregation. Under Brother Glyn's guidance, Pace Assembly of God has expanded their outreach programs to over 250 ministries. With his leadership, they have built churches throughout Europe, Russia, the Philippines, and South America. Their goal is to establish missionary projects in every country.

In Pace, the church has undergone great expansion. What was once a block building has become a flourishing community with a Family Life Center that houses a basketball court, gymnasium, 25 classrooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen, and resource room. Brother Glyn has also taken on leadership roles in the church community at large, serving as the Assistant Superintendent of the West Florida District of the Assemblies of God and briefly taking over as the District Superintendent after the unexpected death of his predecessor.

Through his journey, Brother Glyn has been supported and aided by Jan Lowery, his wife of 35 years. Together they have worked diligently to create outreach programs to help families live more Godly lives. When they saw that children in the Pace community needed rides to Sunday school, they took the initiative to drive them to church. Together they envisioned bringing children and adults to church in busloads and through their Bus Ministry, this vision has become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to a man who could serve as a role model to us all. A deep sense of personal devotion to a congregation for 36 years is something to truly be admired, and I am thankful for his dedication to the Pace of Assembly of God.

HONORING A VETERAN AND PATRIOTIC AMERICAN—JOHN SEYMOUR STARR

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, a patriotic veteran and role-model citizen recently passed away in Greensboro, North Carolina. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I rise to honor John Seymour Starr, a World War II veteran, who dutifully fought for his country from an early age. Only nine days after his 18th birthday, Starr enlisted in the army and joined General George Patton's 3rd Army as a machine gunner on the back of a jeep in the 2nd Cavalry, 42nd Recon. As one of Patton's "Ghosts," Corporal Starr put his life on the line day after day scouting ahead of the division to locate and engage the enemy in order to determine their strength and position for an armored assault.

Just months after entering the fight, on August 8, 1943, Corporal Starr's jeep drove over a land mine on France's Breast peninsula killing the driver and passenger. Starr was put in the hospital with shrapnel embedded in his back that he would carry for the rest of his life. Undeterred by his injuries, Starr ignored his reassignment to a non-combat unit and left the hospital. He hitched rides through France until he was reunited with the 2nd Cavalry. During

the rest of his service, he helped General Patton's 3rd Army take control of the French campaign, and he fought in the Battle of the Bulge in December of 1944.

The courage and dedication Starr displayed, earned him several medals, including the Purple Heart and five Bronze Stars. Starr's patriotism was reflected in his life's philosophy: it is easier to fight for one's country, even in the face of death, than it is to give up the freedoms we enjoy in America.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Starr, 1 sister, 5 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great granddaughter. Again, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District, we join with his family and our community to state that we will miss Corporal John Seymour Starr, an admirable citizen and veteran.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND O.W.
MACK OF HEARNE, TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, July 16th, the congregation and community of Hearne in Robertson County, Texas will honor Reverend O.W. Mack for over 45 years of dedicated service as Pastor of the New Elam Missionary Baptist Church of Hearne.

Reverend Mack attended Blackshear School in Hearne and proudly served this great nation as a member of the United States Armed Forces. He returned to Texas to attend Prairie View A&M University where he became an educator. Later he came back to teach in the Hearne Independent School District and married Vina E. Blocker, also an educator. He later went to theological seminary to become a spiritual leader.

Reverend Mack was an educator for over 33 years, an Assistant Principal for 8 years, and he served on the Hearne Independent School District Board of Trustees for over 20 years. He has worked tirelessly over the years to improve the quality of education for children in Robertson County. His years of service in the field of education are an inspiring tribute to our community's values, and his vision for children in our community will offer hope for generations to come.

Under Reverend Mack's leadership as Pastor of the New Elam Baptist Church, many programs have been greatly expanded and ministries within the church have been enriched. Reverend Mack has led his church in mission efforts both locally and statewide. He serves as the President of the Congress of Christian Workers of the Lincoln District Association under the leadership of Moderator, Dr. W.W. Jackson.

Reverend Mack has a history of unselfish devotion to public service, a legacy of personal achievement, as well as dedicated commitment to his faith and family. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the leadership and commitment of Reverend O.W. Mack and his wife, Vina for over 45 years of dedication to the spiritual life and health of the community of Hearne and Central Texas.

Thank you Reverend Mack and May God bless you.

TRIBUTE TO JIM MORRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim Morris, who over the last five years has guided the U.N. World Food Programme through five years of vital, life-saving support to millions of victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

A former Indianapolis business executive, president of the Indiana University Board of Trustees and head of the Lilly Endowment, Jim Morris could have retired to private life. Instead, Jim accepted the call and rose to the challenge to manage the world's largest food aid organization. Since 2002, Jim has been an eloquent spokesman and tireless administrator for relief programs stretching from Sudan to Iraq, Africa to Asia.

Under Jim's stewardship, the World Food Programme (WFP) provided food aid to over 4 million Ethiopian drought victims in 2003. That year, he also successfully guided WFP in carrying out the largest humanitarian operation in history, feeding 26 million Iraqis.

When tropical storm Jeanne struck Haiti in 2004, WFP showed up big for the 160,000 flood victims. In Darfur, Sudan, WFP battles insecurity and bad roads to get food aid to the 2 million refugees who have fled their homes in response to the conflict.

Reacting to the 2005 tsunami that killed hundreds of thousands of people from Indonesia to Somalia and left hundreds of thousands more without their homes or livelihoods, WFP mounted one of its most complex emergency operations ever. Using helicopters, aircraft, cargo ships, landing craft and traditional trucks, WFP provided essential food aid to 1.75 million tsunami survivors, averting starvation and widespread malnutrition in the wake of the disaster.

Under Jim's leadership, the WFP has made a difference, time and again by quickly getting food to millions of hungry and hurting people who desperately need it. Jim Morris is to be commended for his tireless advocacy for the world's poorest children, which has raised awareness and support for hunger programs, including in this body.

To this heroic Hoosier, who for five years has led the global effort to combat the daily hunger faced by more than 800 million people worldwide, I say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE G7 LEADERS ON THE EVE OF RUSSIA'S G8 SUMMIT

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has described the G8 as "a group of democracies . . . fully committed to free market principles, free trade, rule of law."

On July 15, the Russian Federation will chair the Group of Eight, G8, for the first time since its full integration in 2002 by hosting the annual G8 Summit in the city of St. Petersburg. While Russia's presidency of the G8 was originally intended to showcase its economic and social progress and demonstrate its further integration with the global community, a growing number of observers strongly feel that Russia is not meeting the democratic and free market principles that are the basis of the G8.

I share with my colleagues a recent letter that was circulated prior to the G8 Summit, from nearly 100 diplomats, politicians, academicians and civil society leaders from Russia, Europe and the United States. The letter, which includes notable figures from each of the G7 nations and Russia, was designed to bring attention to Russia's faltering democracy and human rights record. It was released at "The Other Russia" summit, organized by Garry Kasparov, former world chess champion and Russian political activist, to examine these problems and to highlight what they will mean for the future of Russia.

Mr. Speaker, Russia is an important ally to the United States in many ways although we face a number of disagreements with them on pressing global issues. What should not be at issue is the need for an open society in Russia that advances democracy, human rights and free enterprise. This goal is critical for the development of U.S.-Russia relations and the future of Russia itself.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE G7 LEADERS "THE OTHER RUSSIA"

We wish to express our gratitude to the courageous men and women attending "The Other Russia" Summit today and tomorrow in Moscow. This alternative to the G8 summit has been organized by Garry Kasparov, Lyudmila Alekseyeva and other Russian human rights and political leaders. The laudable purpose of the "Other Russia" Summit is to focus the world's attention on the increasingly autocratic and repressive policies of the Russian Government.

"The Other Russia" will bring together distinguished diplomats and politicians, academicians and civil society leaders from Russia, Europe and the United States to examine the deplorable state of human rights and the rule of law in Russia. Experts will document Russia's alarming number of political prisoners, the Kremlin's control over the media, the dangerous increase in government corruption, the continued violence in Chechnya and the return of a one-party state.

"The Other Russia" Summit will examine these economic and political trends, hoping to provide the Russian people with a clearer picture of what the further loss of human and political rights will mean to them. The gathering is also meant to impress upon the G7 leaders, who will be meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin this coming weekend in St. Petersburg, that there is another Russia—a Russia at odds with the corrupt, authoritarian regime which President Putin and those around him appear resolved to impose.

We urge our leaders—Prime Minister Tony Blair, President George W. Bush, President Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Chancellor Angela Merkel and Prime Minister Romano Prodi—not to equivocate when they meet the Russian President this weekend. He must be put on notice that Russia's